in regard to the incidents in Gujarat have been forwarded to the Government of Gujarat for taking appropriate action insofar as the matter relates to the State Government. Under section 9 (3) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, the recommendations made to the State Government under section 9(1) (c) are required to be laid before the State Legislature, along with an action taken memorandum. The recommendations pertairning to the Union Government contained in the said reports are under examination. Under section 9(2) of the said Act, the recommendations made to the Union Government under section 9 (1) (c) are required to be laid by it before each House of Parliament along with an action taken memorandum. The reports, along with the action taken memorandum, will be laid before each House of Parliament in due course.

Increase in Attacks on Minorities

183. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the reasons for increase in attacks on minorities in the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what special steps have been taken to eliminate such attacks and to punish the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No such study has been made at the Central level.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Though "Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, the Central Government has been taking several measures to keep the communal situation under control and to provide protection to the minorities. Some of these measures are mentioned below:

(i) Sharing intelligence with the State Governments.

(ii) Sending advisories to the State Governments from time to time.

(iii) Assisting the State Governments by providing the Central Para-Military Forces, etc. (The Central Government has also constituted a Special Force, viz., Rapid Action Force, for controlling communal riots and tensions).

(iv) Assisting the State Governments in upgrading their policing infrastructure.

After the recent incidents involving minorities, the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the district law and order enforcing authorities to respond immediately to the complaints relating to harassment of minorities and initiate prompt and effective action to identify and punish guilty persons.

A Commission of Inquiry consisting of Mr. Justice D.P. Wadhwa, a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court, has been appointed by the Central Government to look into the killing of Mr. Graham Stewart Staines and his two sons on the night of 22/23rd January, 1999 in will. Manoharpur, Distt. Keonjhar, Orissa.

The Government is firmly of the view that acts of violence against any community, wherever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and examplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators of such violence.

Attacks on Christians

184. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various attacks on Christian missionaries, their institutions and people of Christian faith;